

Wycombe—Outplayed By Stones—Draw

By "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Leytonstone 1.

PHEW! How glad Wycombe Wanderers were to hear the final whistle in this Isthmian League top-of-the-table battle at Loakes Park on Friday. They had hung on grimly against the polished Leytonstone after Tony Horseman had put them back in the game with a 65th minute equaliser.

The Londoners, who look as good as their position suggests, went ahead in the 32nd minute, and never allowed Wycombe to settle down to play the brand of football with which they won at Hendon last week.

How, on earth St. Albans beat Leytonstone last week I will never know. They are the best-drilled, most fluent unit to come to Wycombe this season.

Both teams kicked off with 51 points to their credit, with the Stones on top of the league on goal average.

Wycombe can be thankful they are still in the running. Apart from 10 minutes at the start and about the same time at the end, they were outplayed in almost every department by the favourites.

NO ANSWER

They never seemed to have an answer to the Stones 4-2-4 game, and were unable to fathom the best way to penetrate the double banked defence.

On the other hand the Leytonstone forwards were given far too much room in which to set up their flowing attacks.

David Glass, Wanderers' borrowed centre-forward, had an unhappy home debut. He often seemed a couple of paces too slow. On the other hand he was given little of the ball from his wingers, and was left to forage on his own.

Manager Darvill could do worse than persevere with this player. After all he is used to village football. Once he gets accustomed to the faster pace of the Isthmian League he could do well. He is good in the air.

In fact he had atrocious luck in the sixth minute when his header was scrambled off the line.

Leytonstone's goal was so simple. Charlie Gale tripped Minall. Linkman Andrews back-headed Harvey's free-kick to Gray who finished it off.

It seemed as if Wanderers would never equalise. But half-an-hour later Merrick crossed from the left and Horseman dashed through the goalmouth melée to bundle the ball home as Glass charged in and ended in the back of the net with the ball and a full-back.

Maskell made some brilliant saves while Ian Rundle was outstanding at centre-half, often mastering Peter Osgood-style centre-forward Diwell.

Of the forwards, Samuels and Horseman put in the most effective work.

Wycombe.—J. Maskell; D. Bradshaw, J. Beck; B. Baker, I. Rundle, C. Gale; K. Samuels, P. Bates, D. Glass, T. Horseman, L. Merrick.

Leytonstone.—A. Mackie; J. Emms, B. Moffatt; D. Andrews, R. Walker, J. Charles; R. Hill, K. Gray, P. Diwell, A. Minall, B. Harvey.